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Public Health Committee Public Hearing

March 4th, 2019

Testimony: **S.B. 921 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ADVANCED
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES**

Good Morning: Representative Steinberg, Senator Abrams, Ranking Member Petit, Ranking Member Somers and honorable members of the Public Health Committee, I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on *S.B. 921 An Act Concerning the Scope of Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses* on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA). I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association.

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) must successfully complete thirty (30) hours of education in pharmacology for advanced nursing practice; hold a master's degree in nursing or related field recognized for certification as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist or nurse anesthetist, and pass a licensure exam. APRNs have prescriptive authority and are often primary care providers. A child in need of urgent care for a mental health disorder should not be delayed in receiving care as delays could have

serious consequences for the child's safety and wellbeing. Allowing the APRN to certify that a child in need of immediate care for a mental health disorder is appropriate and will help facilitate rapid access to care in an emergent situation.

The Connecticut Nurses Association strongly supports expanding the APRNs scope as outlined in S.B. 921.

Respectfully submitted,

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